

Appl. No. 10/697,614
Amdt. dated October 14, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 19, 2005

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed April 19, 2005. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following comments. The claims have been amended to more particularly describe the invention. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to include elements of claim 5, as well as to recite that "the casing is fixed to the base end of the valve stem so as not to be movable relative to the valve stem". This limitation is clearly supported, for example, in Figures 2 and 4. Claim 7 has been amended to include these limitations as well as to recite that a center axis line of the jig coincides with a center axis line of the valve stem when the jig engages with the recessed portion. Support for this limitation may be found at page 6, lines 20-28 of the specification. Claims 5 and 6 have been canceled. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Chuang, U.S. Patent No. 6,591,672, in view of Admitted Prior Art. In order for the claimed invention to be rendered obvious, one of the necessities of such a rejection is that the cited combination disclose each and every claimed element. This requirement is lacking, particularly with respect to the amended claims.

In particular, claim 1 has been amended to require (and therefore, so have claims 2-4 depending therefrom) that the casing be fixed to the base end of the valve stem such that the casing is not movable relative to the valve stem, and that the casing has a recessed engagement portion that an automatic mounting machine jig engages with during mounting.

The Examiner has asserted that Chuang's elongated hole 53 meets the claimed engagement portion, and has pointed to column 3, lines 55-63 as support. Chuang reads, in part:

The central portion of the base portion 17 is provided with a valve stem cavity 51 having an elongated hole 53 with a tire valve stem 19 extending therethrough. The tire valve stem 19 has a stopper 55 of which one end is provided with a substantially arc-shape shoulder 56 and the elongated hole 53 is also provided with an arc-shape shoulder 35 such that the tire valve stem 19 pivots with relation to the base portion 17 on the curvature centrum of the arc-shape shoulder 35, when the tire valve stem 19 is mounted into the elongated hole 53 and fixed by a nut 31.

Column 3, lines 54-63, emphasis added.

To one of skill in the art, the above passage clearly means that the elongated hole 53 is

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formed in the sensor housing for receiving the valve stem 19 such that the valve stem 19 pivots relative to the sensor housing. The elongated hole 53 of Chuang is not used for the purpose of engaging with a jig or a tool when mounting the condition sensor in a vehicle wheel. Therefore, the elongated hole 53 of Chuang is different from the claimed engagement recessed portion.

The Examiner has also noted that Chuang discloses a specific tool for affixing the sensor, and has pointed to column 4, lines 39-40 for support. Chuang reads, in part:

Moreover, it will be appreciated by those skilled in this art that a tire pressure sensor known in the related art is provided with a tire valve stem having a spherical stopper, so the tire valve stem shall be affixed by a specific tool when a nut is screwed thereon and hence it is difficult to install the tire pressure sensor.

Column 4, lines 36-41.

To one of skill in the art, this passage means that a tire pressure sensor known to Chuang is provided with a tire valve stem having a spherical stopper such that the valve stem pivots relative to the sensor housing. Since the spherical stopper allows the valve stem to rotate relative to the sensor housing, the valve stem needs to be affixed by a specific tool to prevent the valve stem from rotating relative to the sensor housing when a nut is screwed on the valve stem to connect the sensor housing to the valve stem. That is, Chuang discloses that the specific tool is used for affixing the valve stem to the sensor housing such that the valve stem is prevented from rotating relative to the sensor housing. Therefore, Chuang does not disclose the jig referenced in the claims.

As described above, Chuang does not disclose any elements corresponding to the claimed engagement recessed portion and the claimed jig. With respect to the Admitted Prior Art, Applicant has merely admitted that a clamp-in valve having no sensor casing is mounted in the vehicle wheel by using an automatic mounting machine with a jig. Therefore, the claimed subject matter is not obvious over Chuang in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art.

Thus, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections to claim 1 is respectfully requested. Claims 2-4 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, and claim 5 has been canceled. Hence, withdrawal of the 103(a) rejections to these claims is respectfully requested as well.

With respect to independent claim 7, it is noted that claim 7 has been amended to include

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same limitations as claim 1 and, therefore, is similarly patentable. Moreover, claim 7 also now requires that "the recessed portion is located on an extension of a center axis line of the valve stem so that a center axis line of the jig coincides with the center axis line of the valve stem when the jig engages with the recessed portion". This limitation is not shown by either Chuang or the Admitted Prior Art. Therefore, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection to claim 7 is respectfully requested. Claims 8 and 9 depend from claim 7. Hence, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections to these claims is respectfully requested as well.

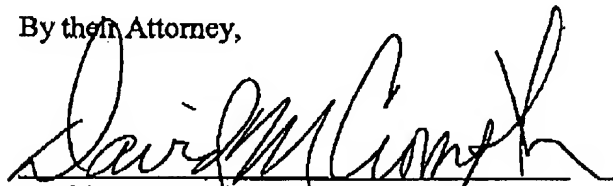
Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Chuang, U.S. Patent No. 6,591,672, in view of Admitted Prior Art, and further in view of Gabelmann, U.S. Patent No. 5,844,131. Claim 6 has been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Yoshitaka Ito et al.

By their Attorney,



David M. Crompton, Reg. No. 36,772
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC
1221 Nicollet Avenue, Suite 800
Minneapolis, MN 55403-2420
Telephone: (612) 677-9050
Facsimile: (612) 359-9349

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